

REMARKS

Claims 15, 18-22 and 26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-14, 16-17 and 23-25 are canceled, claim 15 is amended to include the subject matter of claims 16 and 17 and new claim 26 is added and is directed to the subject matter that the Examiner indicated was allowable in the January 31, 2006, Office Action.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 17 (and of claim 16 from which claim 17 previously depended from). Because claims 18-22 depend from now-amended claim 15, and thus require the subject matter of previous claim 17, claims 18-22 are allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 15. New claims 26 is directed to the specific subject matter that the Examiner indicated was allowable in the January 31, 2006, Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is also allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 15, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hums (U.S. Patent No. 4,880,378). The Office Action also rejected claims 16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hums and rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hums in view of Moller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,889,698).

As claim 17 was not rejected, and as the subject matter of now-cancelled claims 16-17 has been incorporated into claim 15, and thus also to its dependent claims 18-22, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejections have all been rendered moot.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims and this application are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below. In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

If any additional fees are due with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required with respect to this paper or credit any overpayment to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-3954.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Robert K. Carpenter

Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 000064669
5 Pipestem Court
Rockville, Maryland 20854
301-802-2668
RKC/